Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A license enforcement system, comprising:

a monitoring component that determines a current number (M) of users logged on to an application under a license;

an enforcement component that dynamically takes corrective action ~~if~~ upon M ~~exceeds~~ exceeding an authorized number (N) of users permitted under the license; ~~and~~

a validation component that checks stored license data at regular time intervals to ensure that the data has not been corrupted[[.]];

a license store for securely storing license data;

a backup store that contains copies of the stored license data, the validation component checks the validity of the copies of the license data in the backup store upon determining that stored license data in the license store is corrupt, restores the corrupt license data from the backup store to the license store upon confirming the validity of the copies, and initiates shutdown of the license enforcement system upon determining that the copies in the backup store are invalid; and

an oversight component that observes the monitoring component and the enforcement component to ensure that they have not been deactivated, wherein the oversight component restarts the monitoring component when it stops operating, and shuts down the application when the monitoring component cannot be restarted.

2.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein corrective action includes providing a warning to one or more users.

3.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the corrective action comprises denying one or more users access to a license target, the license target including one of the application, a system and a device.

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the validation component restores corrupted stored license data by copying data in the backup store to the license store.

8.   (Cancelled)

9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Currently Amended) A license enforcement system comprising:

        a monitoring component that monitors use of a licensed application by one or more users in accordance with a license agreement;

        an enforcement component that takes corrective action upon notification by the monitoring component that there has been a violation of the license agreement; ~~and~~

        a validation component that checks stored license data at regular time intervals to ensure that the data has not been corrupted[[.]]; and

        an oversight component that observes the operation of the monitoring component and restarts the component when it fails to operate properly, the oversight component shuts down the licensed application when the monitoring component cannot be restarted.

12.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the monitoring component monitors user logins.

13.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the monitoring component monitors hardware associated with the execution of an application.

14.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the monitoring component monitors use of other applications being executed concurrently with the licensed application.

15.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the corrective action corresponds warning one or more users of the licensing agreement violation.

16.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the corrective action corresponds to shutting down the licensed application.

17.   (Cancelled)

18.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising a license store for storing licenses and data associated therewith.

19.   (Cancelled)

20.   (Currently Amended) A licensing system comprising:
        a license store that receives license data from a license component associated with a licensed application;
        a validation component that checks stored license data at regular time intervals to ensure that the data has not been corrupted;
        a monitoring component that monitors license data and utilization of the application to determine license violations; ~~and~~
        an enforcement component that takes corrective action in response to notification of a license violation by the monitoring component[[.]]; and
         an oversight component that observes the operation of the monitoring component and restarts the component when it fails to operate properly, the oversight component shuts down the licensed application when the monitoring component cannot be restarted.

21.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the license component comprises:

    an installation component that saves license data to the license store; and

    an activation component that provides a mechanism for activating the license component, wherein license data is saved to the license store by the installation component after the license is activated.

22.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein license data includes a value indicative of the number of licenses provided by the license component.

23.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the license data includes license issue date and expiration date.

24.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the license data includes a hardware ID indicative of the hardware components of a computer system utilized to execute the licensed application and a license ID that uniquely identifies the license component.

25.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, further comprising a bypass component that disables the monitoring component and/or the enforcement component.

26.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the bypass component is a license component with a license code within a bypass range.

27.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, further comprising an interface component to facilitate information retrieval by a user.

28.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 27, wherein the interface is utilized by the enforcement component to provide notification to users in violation of a licensing agreement.

29.   (Currently Amended) A method for enforcing licensing agreements comprising:

        monitoring license data in a data store and use of a licensed application;

        determining license violations;

        initiating corrective action in response to detection of a license violation; ~~and~~

        checking stored license data at regular defined intervals to ensure that the data has not

been corrupted[[.]];

        determining that monitoring of the license data has stopped;

        restarting the monitoring upon determining that the monitoring has stopped; and

        shutting down the licensed application when the monitoring cannot be restarted.

30.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein determining license violations
comprises comparing the number of users licensed to utilize the application against the number
of users actually using the application.

31.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the number of users actually
using an application corresponds to the number of users logged onto a system.

32.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein determining license violations
comprises comparing the number of licenses to the number of devices, a violation occurring
where the number of devices is greater than the number of licenses.

33.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein determining license violations
comprises monitoring computer hardware configuration and comparing it with an allowable
configuration specified by the licensing agreement.

34.   (Cancelled)

35.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising retrieving license data
from a backup store and saving it to the license store ~~if~~ when license store data has been
tampered with or corrupted.

36.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the license data is encrypted.

37.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the corrective action includes warning a user of the violation.

38.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the corrective action includes denying one or more users access to the application.

39.   (Previously presented) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 29.

40.   (Currently Amended) A method of adding licenses to a computer system comprising:
        activating a license component;
        installing the license component on a computer, wherein installing the license component includes storing license data in a license store; ~~and~~
        storing a copy of the license data in a backup store;
        checking stored license data in the license store ~~on a regular periodic basis~~ to ensure that the data has not been corrupted[[.]];
        deleting the stored license data in the license store when it is determined that the license data is corrupt;
        checking the validity of the copy of the license data in the backup store;
        restoring the license data from the backup store to the license store when it is determined that the copy of the license data in the backup store is valid; and
        initiating shutdown of the computer system when it is determined that the copy of the license data in the backup store cannot be validated.

41.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein activating a license comprises:

generating a hardware ID;

locating the license code;

transmitting the hardware ID and a license code to an activation database;

receiving an activation code from the database; and

providing the activation code to the license component.

42.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein license data includes a number of licenses.

43.   (Previously presented) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carry out the method of claim 40.